

Detroit VA Healthcare System
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News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA Healthcare System to Join Nation in Saluting Veterans

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, February 9 – 15, 2014



(Detroit) The Detroit VA Healthcare System will host visitors, media and volunteers for what is always an exciting week, as the medical center observes the **National Salute to Veteran Patients**, February 10 – 15, 2014.

"This is our chance to treat our Veterans and their families to various events and activities to let them know how much we appreciate them for their sacrifices and their service," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director. "Each year, we invite elected officials, school groups, celebrities and others to visit our patients during the week. It's such a treat for everyone involved!"

"It's really our week to honor the more than 330,000 Veterans across Southeast Michigan," said William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations. "This week has quite a bit of history to it. The annual VA National Salute program began in 1978. VA Voluntary Service staff plan and execute local events and activities at VA medical facilities around the nation, including right here at the Detroit VA Healthcare System. The National Salute is observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the Salute's expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans!"

While the National Salute kicks off in mid-February, Detroit-area residents have the chance to show their appreciation to Veterans all year by volunteering their time here at the medical center. No medical experience is necessary and volunteers are encouraged to share ideas on how they would like to give back using their unique skills. To find opportunities, you can call 313-576-3332 or go to www.detroit.va.gov/giving.

"Our medical center's 1,200 volunteers are a crucial part of our health care team. The National Salute program is a great way for people to learn more about helping the Veterans we serve here at the medical center," said Browning. "Visitors are often surprised at how varied our volunteer opportunities are."

Here are highlights of the week's events:

Sunday, February 9, 2014

- 9:00 a.m. – Noon: UAW Region 1 Veterans Council will pass out goodies to Veterans in room B1290 and at the Domiciliary Transition Facility
- 11:00 a.m.: UAW Region 1 hosts BINGO in the Closed Ward and the Long Term Care area
- 1:00 p.m.: Wayne State Volleyball team visit

Monday, February 10, 2014

- 10:00 a.m.: Suits for Soldiers professional attire give away

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

- 10:00 a.m.: Members of the Tuskegee Airmen visit
- 11:00 a.m.: GM Tech Center employees pass out goodies
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Gordon the Magician performs for patients in rooms and atrium, compliments of Jack Demmer Automotive Group

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

- 2:00 p.m.: Peaceful Warriors Project band will perform in atrium

Thursday, February 13, 2014

- 9:00 a.m.: Baker College Students hand out Valentines cards
- Noon – 4:00 p.m.: Accenture Group employees to bring Valentines cards and visit patients
- 1:00 p.m.: Members from Selfridge Air National Guard Base will visit patients

Friday, February 14, 2014

- 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: AMVETS host "Let's Make a Deal" game in B1290
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will hand out Valentines cards
- 2:00 p.m.: Polish Legion of American Veterans to host BINGO on B2N

Saturday, February 15, 2014

- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Salute To Our Heroes Group visit

For a complete schedule of events, please call (313) 576-3340. For more information about volunteer opportunities, to schedule a visit, or to make a donation, please contact the Detroit VA Healthcare System Voluntary Service, (313) 576-3332.

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location on John R. in Detroit. Known as one of the newer VA facilities in the country, we consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.

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